

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

OCT 22 1980
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October 20, 1980

MEMORANDUM

TO: ARA - Mr. S. Eaton
 Ms. L. Jaramillo
 Mr. R. Service
 Mr. G. Whitman
 Ms. K. Marshall

FROM: HA - R. Cohen *RC*

SUBJ: Nobel Peace Laureate Perez Esquivel

A review of our information confirms that Adolpho Perez Esquivel was a high-interest US case in 1977-78. Our Embassy in Buenos Aires made many demarches on his behalf following his arrest and detention without charge or trial. There is a full file on his case at the Embassy. Upon his release to house arrest in January 1978, he immediately telephoned our Embassy to express his appreciation for USG support.

Internationally, he also was a well-known case: He was an Amnesty International adoptee; a report on his status appears in AI's 1978 Annual Report. He was nominated in 1978 for the Nobel Peace Prize by the Irish recipients of that Prize. He was well-known in church and human rights circles. His organization is an affiliate of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in New York, a group with which I am familiar.

Argentine efforts to discredit his reputation are not surprising. His case clearly undermines GOA propaganda that only violent terrorists were the victims of the "dirty war".

It is because of his non-violent role in Argentina and its relevance internationally that the Nobel Committee awarded him the Peace Prize. The US for the same reasons and because he was a high-interest US case should acknowledge this role and not hesitate to give recognition to it.

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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